

REMARKS

Restriction Requirement

Applicant herein acknowledges the restriction requirement in the above-referenced application. Claims 1 through 74 are currently pending in the application. The Office has identified the following groups of claims as being drawn to separate inventions:

Group I – claims 1-66, drawn to an assembly processing apparatus and method of using, classified in class 425, subclass 174.4; and

Group II – claims 67-74, drawn to a method for forming solder balls, classified in class 430, subclass 311.

Applicant hereby elects the claims of Group I, claims 1-66, without traverse.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicant notes the filing of Information Disclosure Statements herein on February 7, 2002 and on July 29, 2002 and note that no copies of the PTO-1449s were returned with the outstanding Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the information cited on the PTO-1449s be made of record herein.

Preliminary Amendment

Applicant's undersigned attorney notes the filing herein of a Preliminary Amendment on November 8, 2001, which filing was not acknowledged in the outstanding Office Action. Should the Preliminary Amendment have failed for some reason to have been entered in the Office file, Applicant's undersigned attorney will be happy to have a true copy thereof hand-delivered to the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

An early Office Action on the merits with respect to claims 1-66 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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